



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1104 North Westover BLVD, Unit 9
ALBANY, GEORGIA 31707

JUN 12 2009

Regulatory Division
200900564

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
Savannah District/State of Georgia

The Savannah District has received an application for a Department of the Army Permit, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), as follows:

Application Number: 200900564

Applicant: Colonel Thomas Macdonald, Garrison Commander
Fort Benning, Georgia 31905

Location of Proposed Work: The project area is located in the central portion of Ft. Benning; the project begins at the Harmony Church area and extends north to the installation boundary where it extends to the East and West. Coordinates for the center of the project area are Latitude 32.265831° and Longitude 84.463477°.

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers: This project (65554) proposes to impact 7.29 acres of wetlands and 733 linear feet of stream for the construction of 33 miles of paved trainee roads, plus 5.43 miles of installation perimeter road and 1.19 miles of tank trail. The project also includes site work, erosion control and storm drainage structures. Guard rails gates and barriers for boundary fence would also be part of the project. This project is included in the Maneuver Center of Excellence Environmental Impact Statement.

Mitigation Plan

Fort Benning is proposing to mitigate these impacts by purchasing 35.1 wetland credits and 2,346 stream credits from the Kolomoki Mitigation Bank.

BACKGROUND

This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the US Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Georgia. The applicant's proposed work may also require local governmental approval.

STATE OF GEORGIA

Water Quality Certification: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, intends to certify this project at the end of 30 days in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which is required by an applicant for a Federal Permit to conduct an activity in, on, or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia. Copies of the application and supporting documents relative to a specific application will be available for review and copying at the office of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Water Protection Branch, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30354, during regular office hours. A copier machine is available for public use at a charge of 25 cents per page. Any person who desires to comment, object, or request a public hearing relative to State Water Quality Certification must do so within 30 days of the State's receipt of application in writing and state the reasons or basis of objections or request for a hearing. The application can also be seen in the Savannah District US Army Corps of Engineers, Albany Field Office, 1104 N. Westover Blvd, Unit 9, Albany, Georgia.

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Savannah District must consider the purpose and the impacts of the applicant's proposed work, prior to a decision on issuance of a Department of the Army Permit.

Cultural Resources Assessment: The US Army Infantry Center, Fort Benning is the lead federal agency for this proposed action. Historic and Cultural Resources Surveys and Assessments were included in an MCOE EIS that is currently being performed by Fort Benning. As soon as the assessments are completed, a copy of the results will be forwarded to the appropriate offices for review. Fort Benning will meet all lead federal agency responsibilities pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, prior to any work occurring in waters of the US subject to the jurisdiction of the USACE.

Endangered Species: The US Army Infantry Center, Fort Benning is the lead federal agency for this proposed action. Threatened and Endangered Species Assessments were included in an MCOE EIS that is currently being performed by Fort Benning. As soon as the surveys and assessments are completed, a copy of the results will be forwarded to the appropriate offices for review. Fort Benning will meet all lead federal agency responsibilities pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, prior to any work occurring in waters of the US subject to the jurisdiction of the USACE.

Public Interest Review: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic

properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Consideration of Public Comments: The US Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the US Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Application of Section 404(b) (1) Guidelines: Project Purpose and need: Fort Benning, located approximately 80 miles southwest of Atlanta, is the home of the United States Army Infantry Center, 3rd Brigade 3rd Infantry Division, and various non-divisional and tenant units. The relocation of the USA Armor Center from Fort Knox, KY to Fort Benning will result in the stationing of approximately 14,000 additional personnel at the installation (including students). A majority of the facilities required for the Armor Center will be built at Harmony Church. New utility distribution systems and roadway upgrade are required to support the required facilities. Training area roadway improvements are required to provide safe and secure access into Fort Benning's training areas. Access to and within four major training maneuver areas is required to support mission training: OSUT Maneuver Training Area, Northern Maneuver Training Area, Good Hope Maneuver Training Area, and Southeastern Maneuver Training Area.

The objective of this project is to upgrade existing training area infrastructure roads and drainage structure to support increased access and training use. The current situation of the existing training roads does not support the increased trafficability and training throughput associated with tracked vehicle use. If this project is not provided, mission support to Fort Benning will be reduced. Safe and efficient access to existing training land and other planned training area development will be limited.

Alternative Site Evaluation: With regard to the project site location, Fort Benning is limited in spaces that can accommodate a training area of this size. A search was conducted for alternative sites and only one available site was found that could accommodate this project. Because of the network of existing roads throughout the Good Hope Training area, it allowed for many of the proposed tank trails to be placed on the existing trails, therefore, minimizing the need for completely new road construction and reducing overall jurisdictional impacts. New trails will be constructed in areas where no existing trails are present. This area provided the best and only option for this training facility. Therefore, no other more feasible alternative sites exist on this military installation for this project.

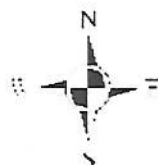
Avoidance and Minimization: This project site has numerous wetlands and streams throughout. It also has a number of existing roads and crossings. The existing roads and crossings would be used as much as possible. Some trails were relocated to avoid wetland areas. During the design process, the foot print of the project was adjusted and reduced to avoid wetland impacts. Approximately 8 acres of wetlands and 100 linear feet of stream were avoided.

Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army Permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. The decision whether to hold a public hearing is at the discretion of the District Engineer, or his designated appointee, based on the need for additional substantial information necessary in evaluating the proposed project.

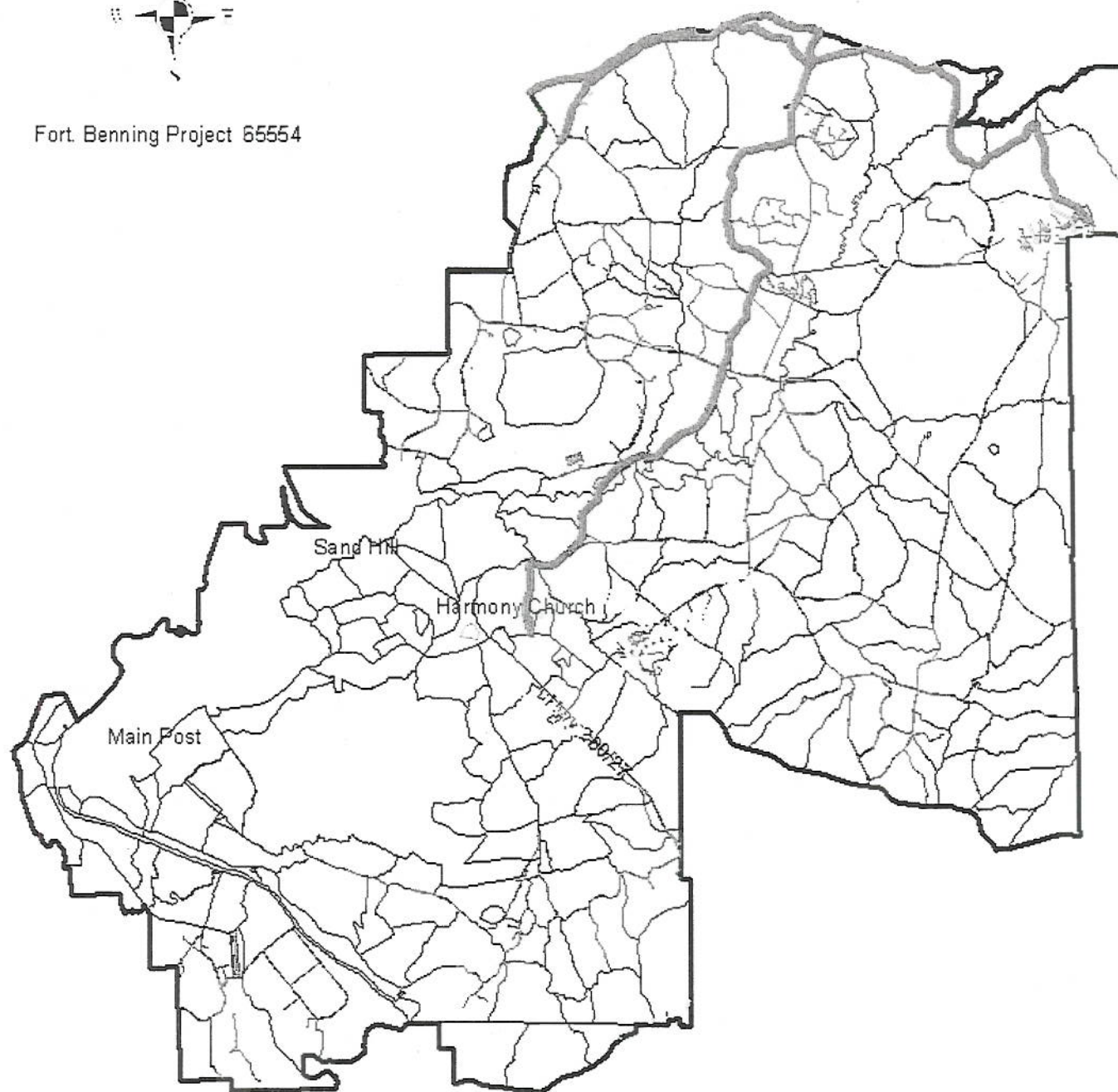
Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army Permit should submit comments in writing to the Commander, US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Albany Field Office, 1104 N. Westover Blvd, Unit 9, Albany, Georgia. 31707, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Please refer to the applicant's name and the application number in your comments.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Thomas Fischer, at (229) 430-8566.





Enclosures

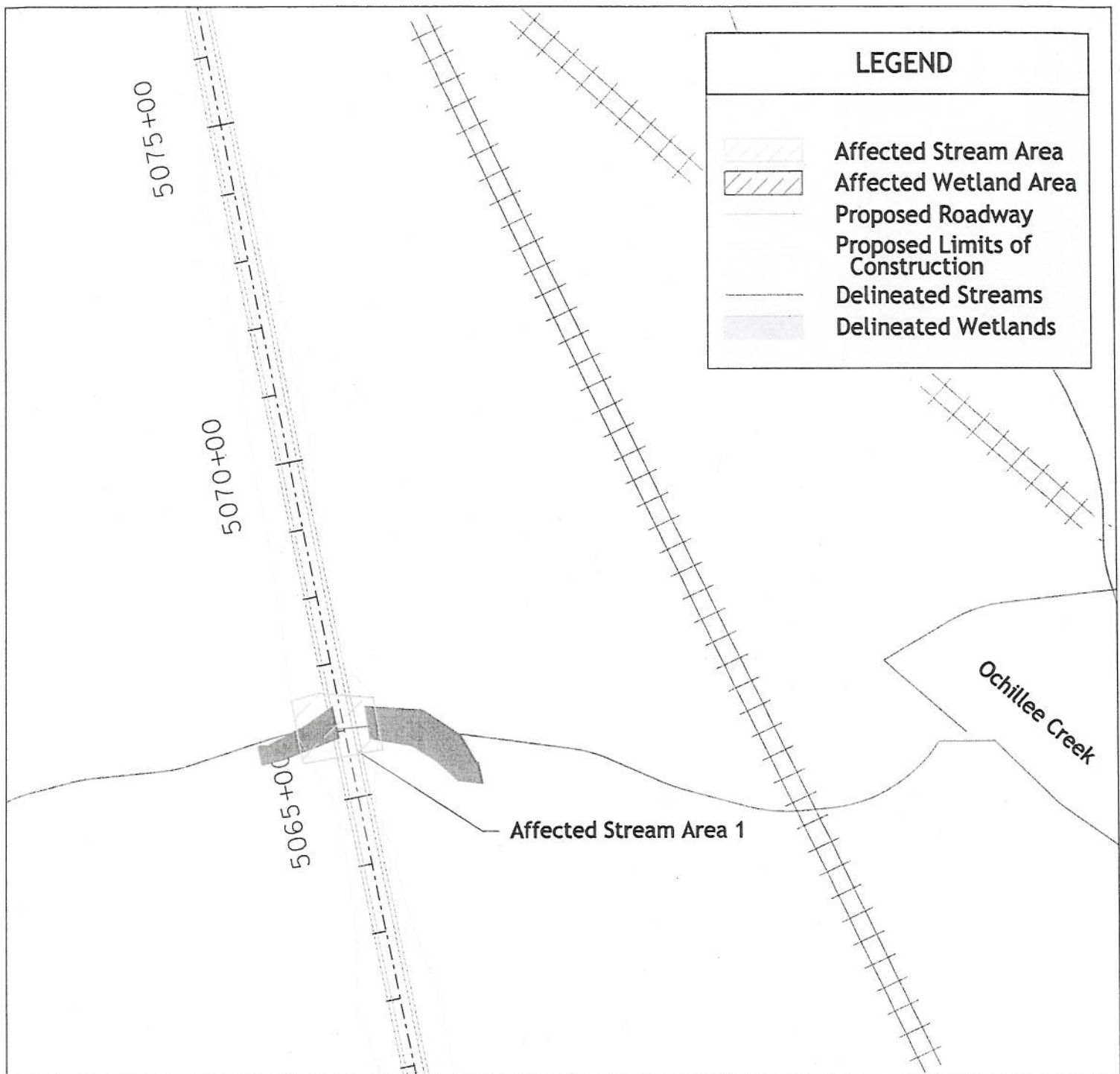


Fort Benning Project 65554



Legend

-  DD1391_BRAC_roads_poly_Prj_65554
-  Military_Training_Sub_Area
-  Installation_Area_Boundary
-  roads_main



**Northern Training Areas
Jurisdictional Impact Assessment
Fort Benning, GA**



**Hatch Mott
MacDonald**

2550 Heritage Ct. SE, Suite 250 Atlanta, GA 30339

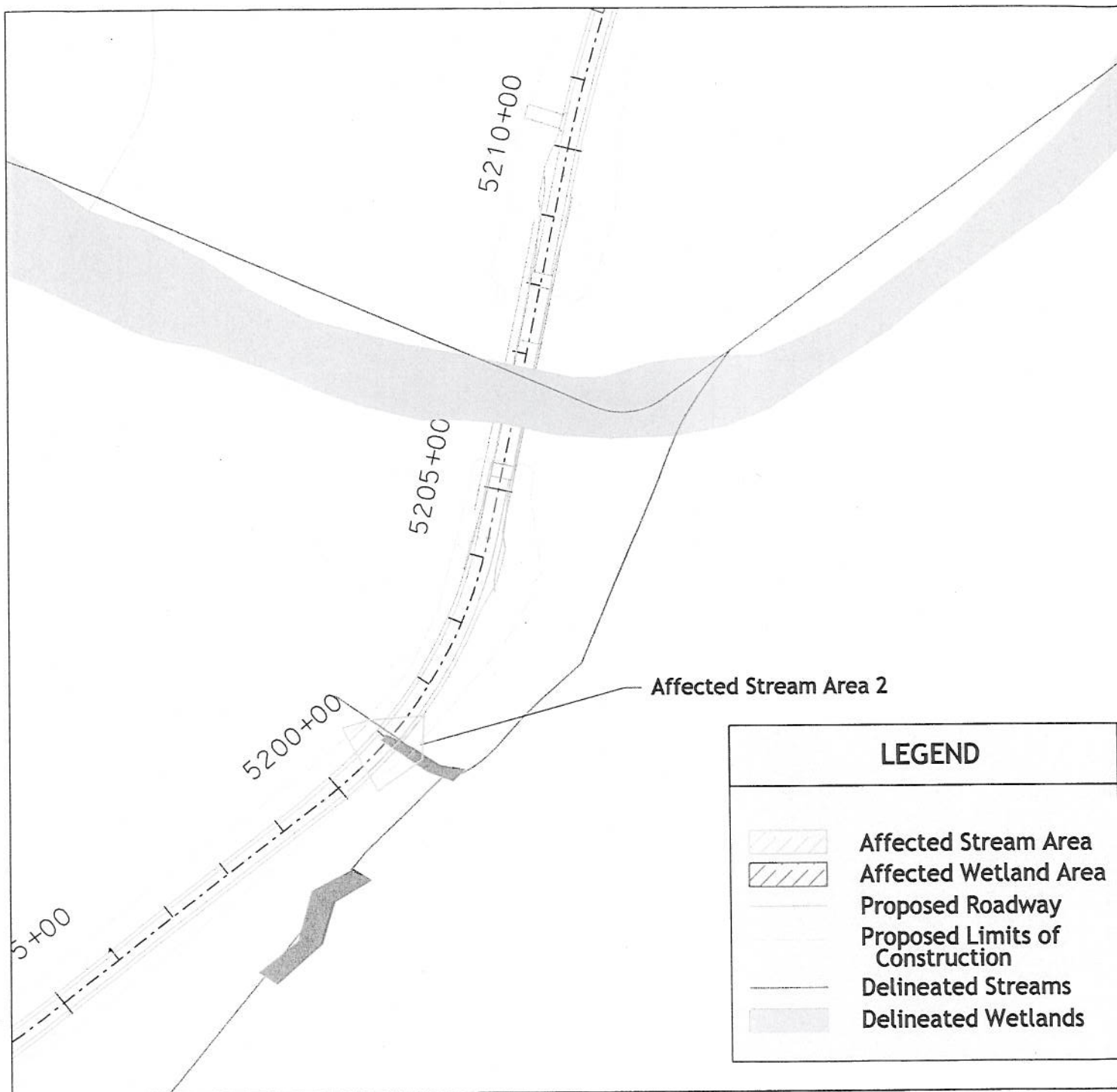


**Figure x.x
Affected Stream Area 1**

**Prepared For:
United States Army at Fort Benning**

0 200' 400'
SCALE: 1"=200'

CONTRACT NO.
W912HN-08-R-0021



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Jurisdictional Impact Assessment
Fort Benning ,GA**



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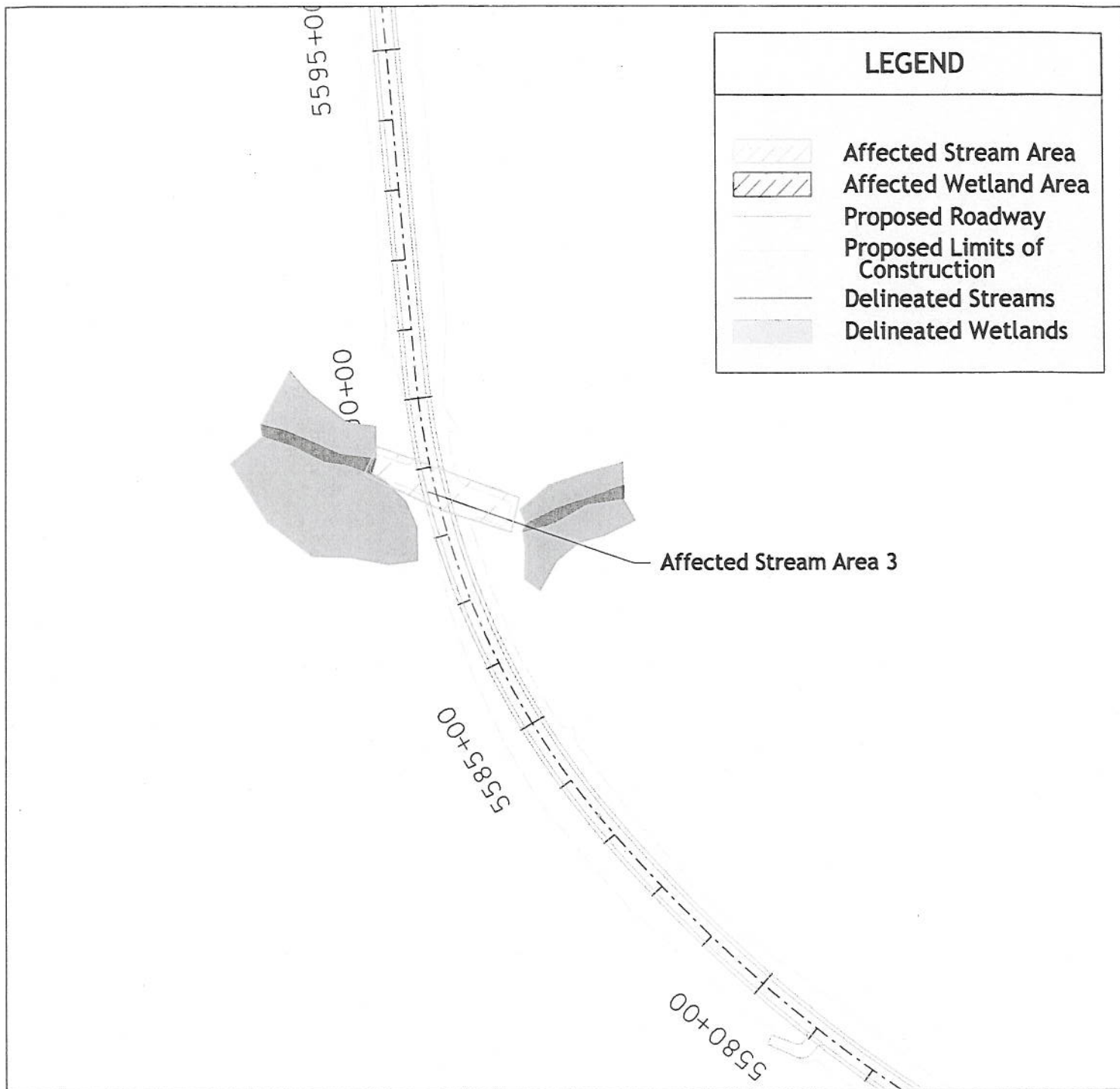
**Figure x.x
Affected Stream Area 2**

**Prepared For:
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**Figure x.x
Affected Stream Area 3**

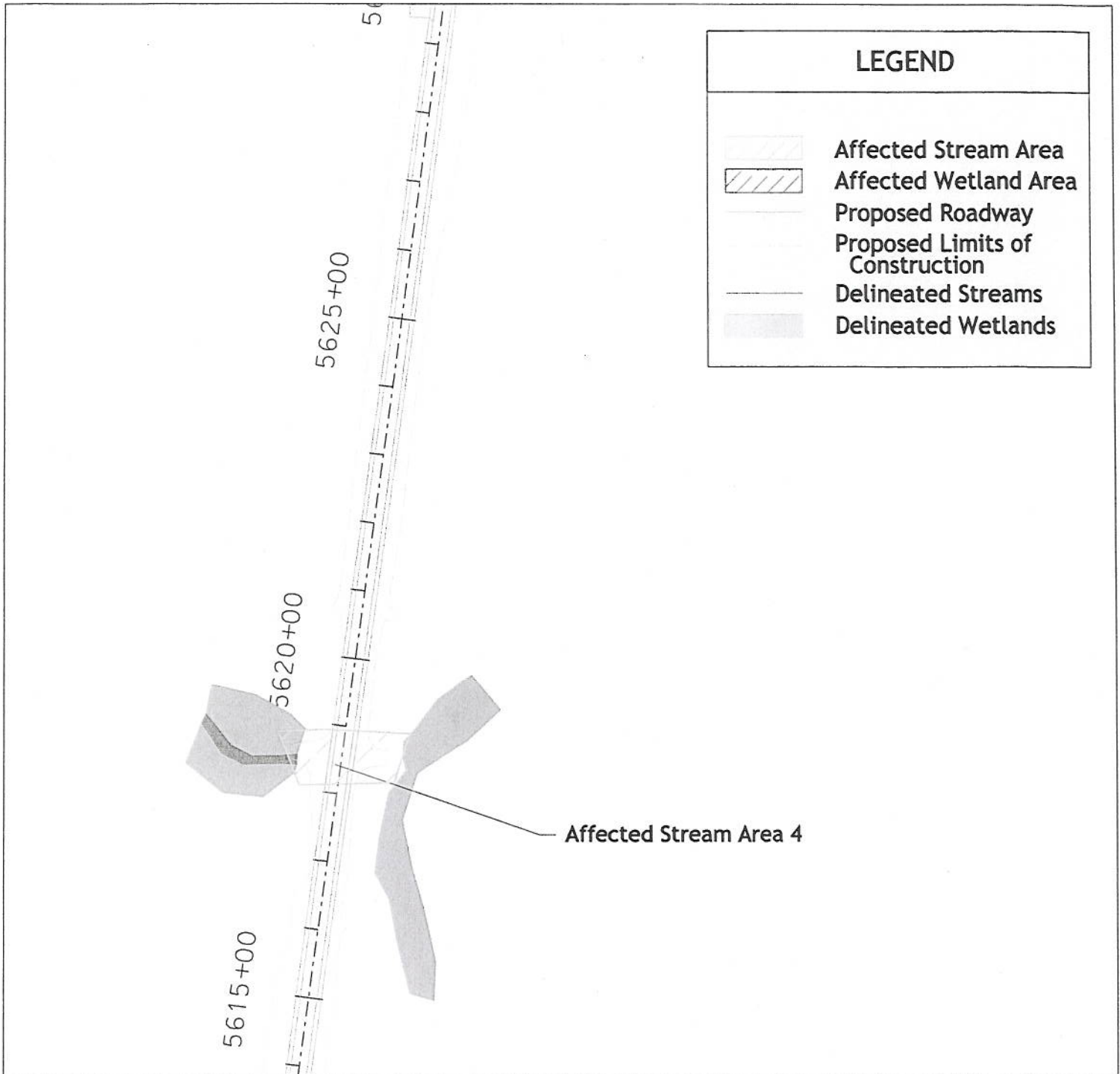
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**Figure x.x
Affected Stream Area 4**

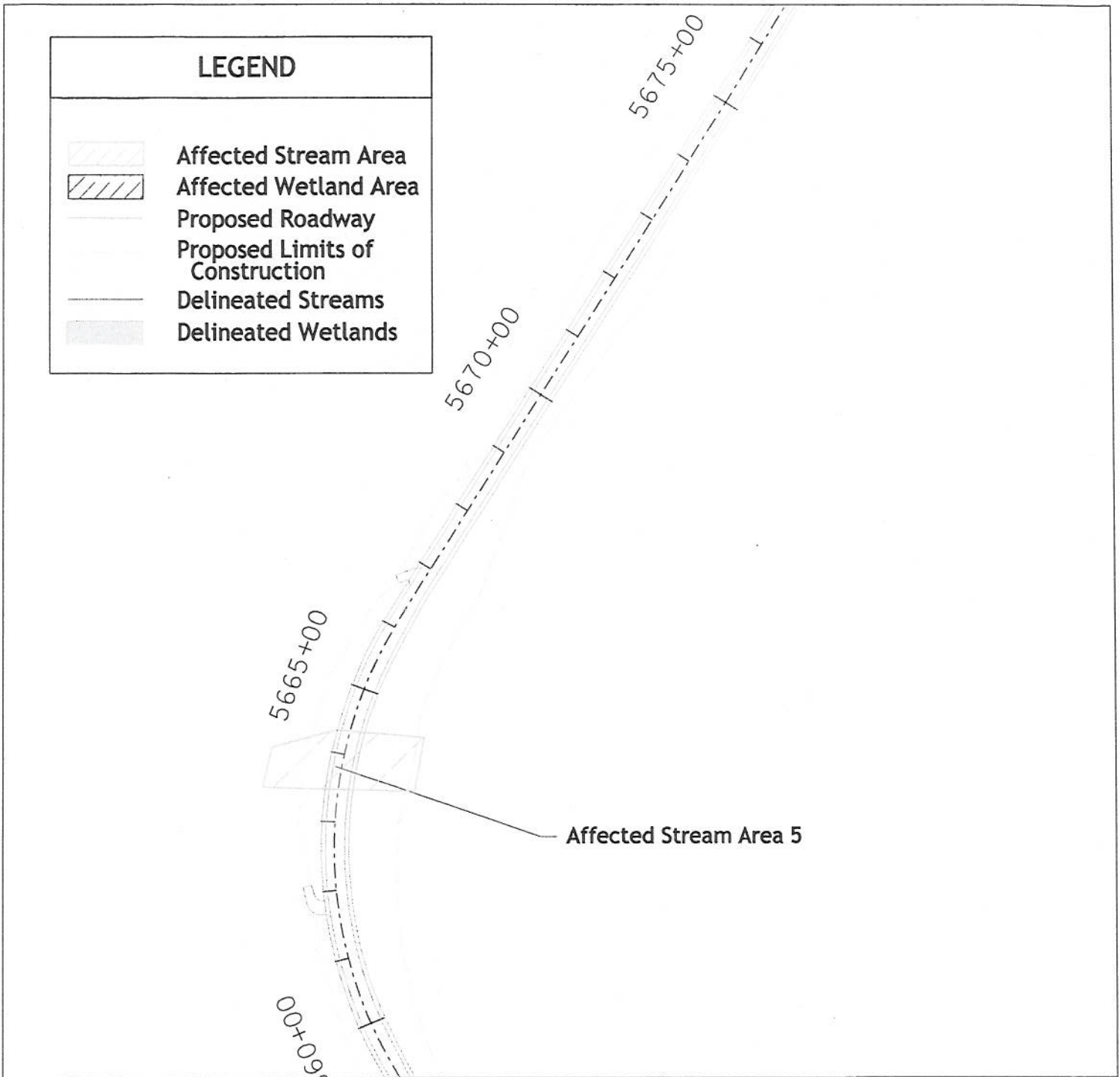
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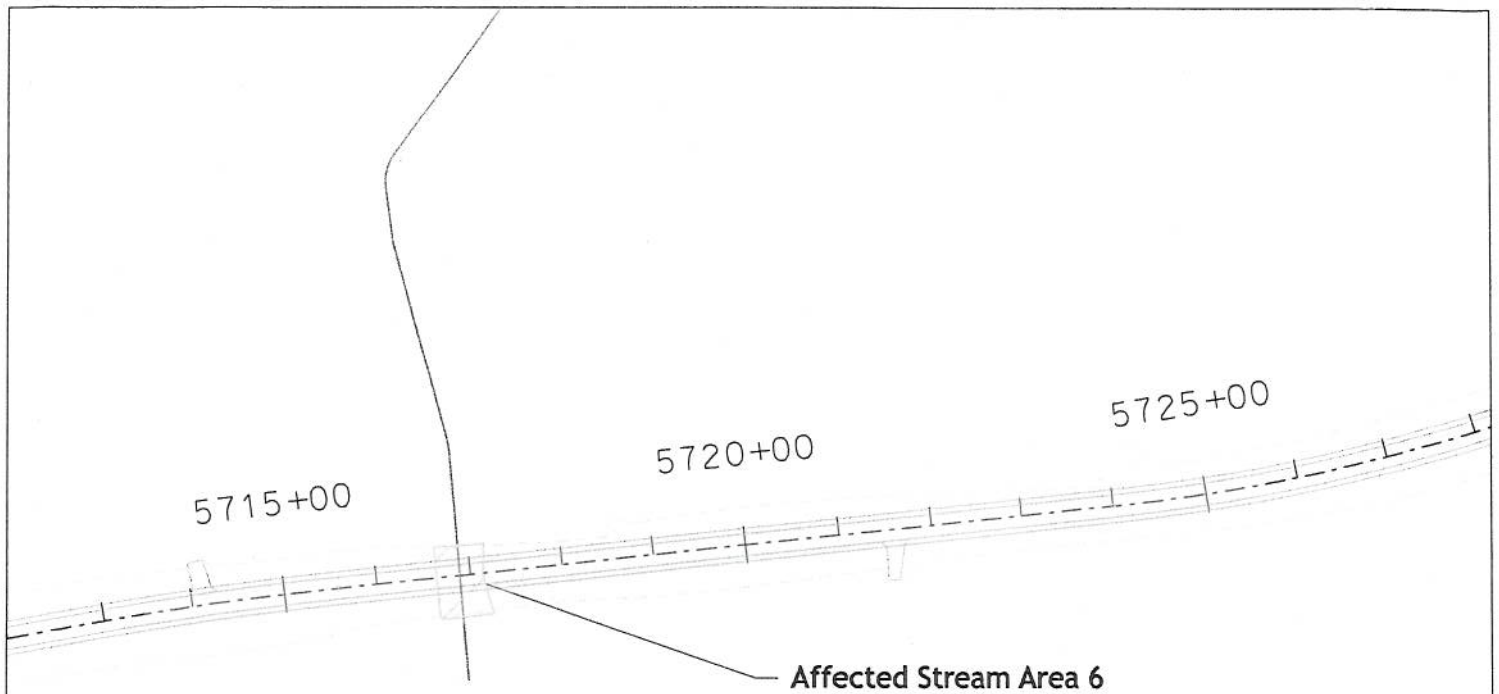
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Affected Stream Area 5**

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0 200' 400'

SCALE: 1"=200'

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LEGEND	
	Affected Stream Area
	Affected Wetland Area
	Proposed Roadway
	Proposed Limits of Construction
	Delineated Streams
	Delineated Wetlands

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Jurisdictional Impact Assessment
Fort Benning ,GA**



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**Figure x.x
Affected Stream Area 6**

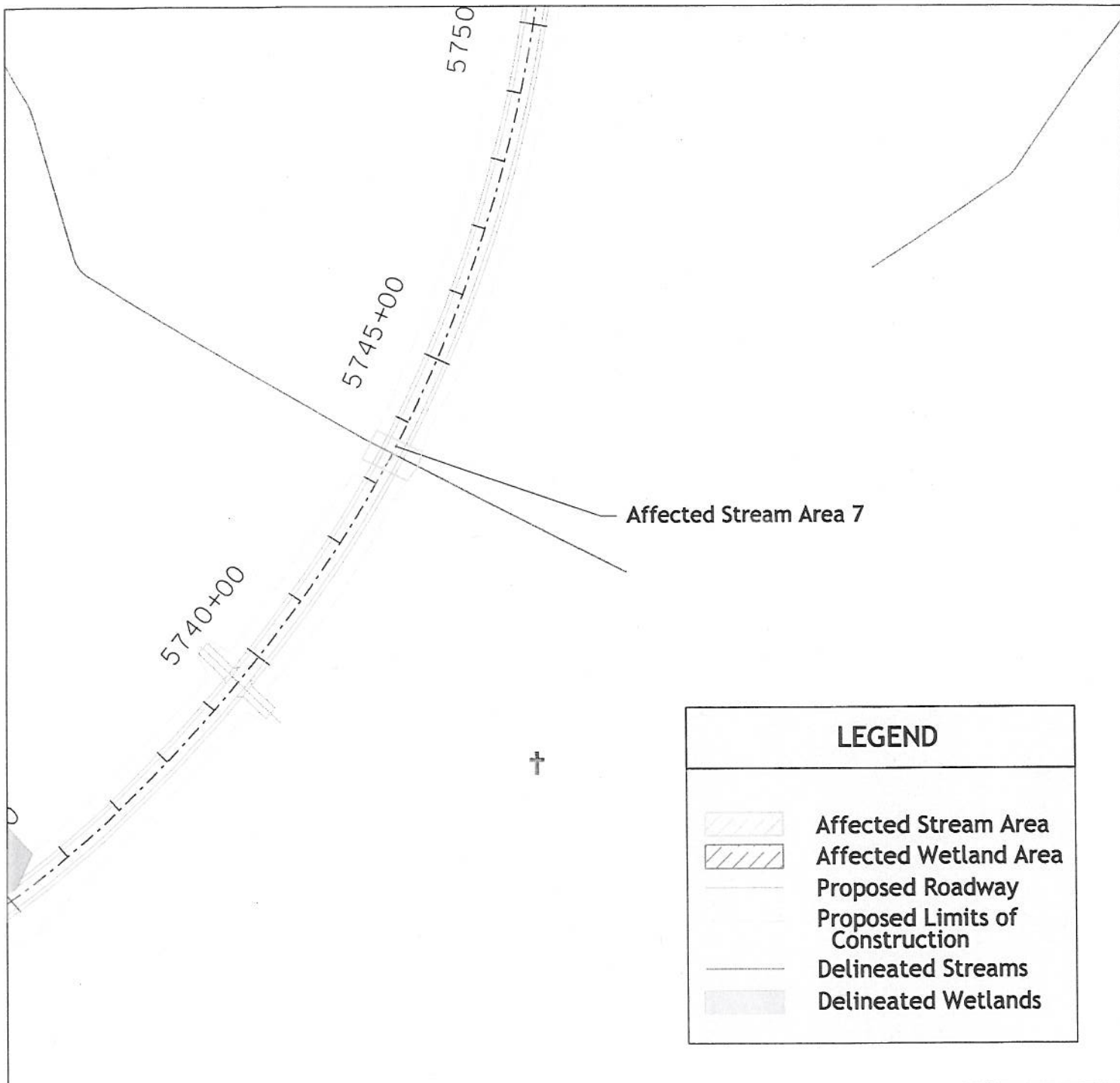
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**Figure x.x
Affected Stream Area 7**

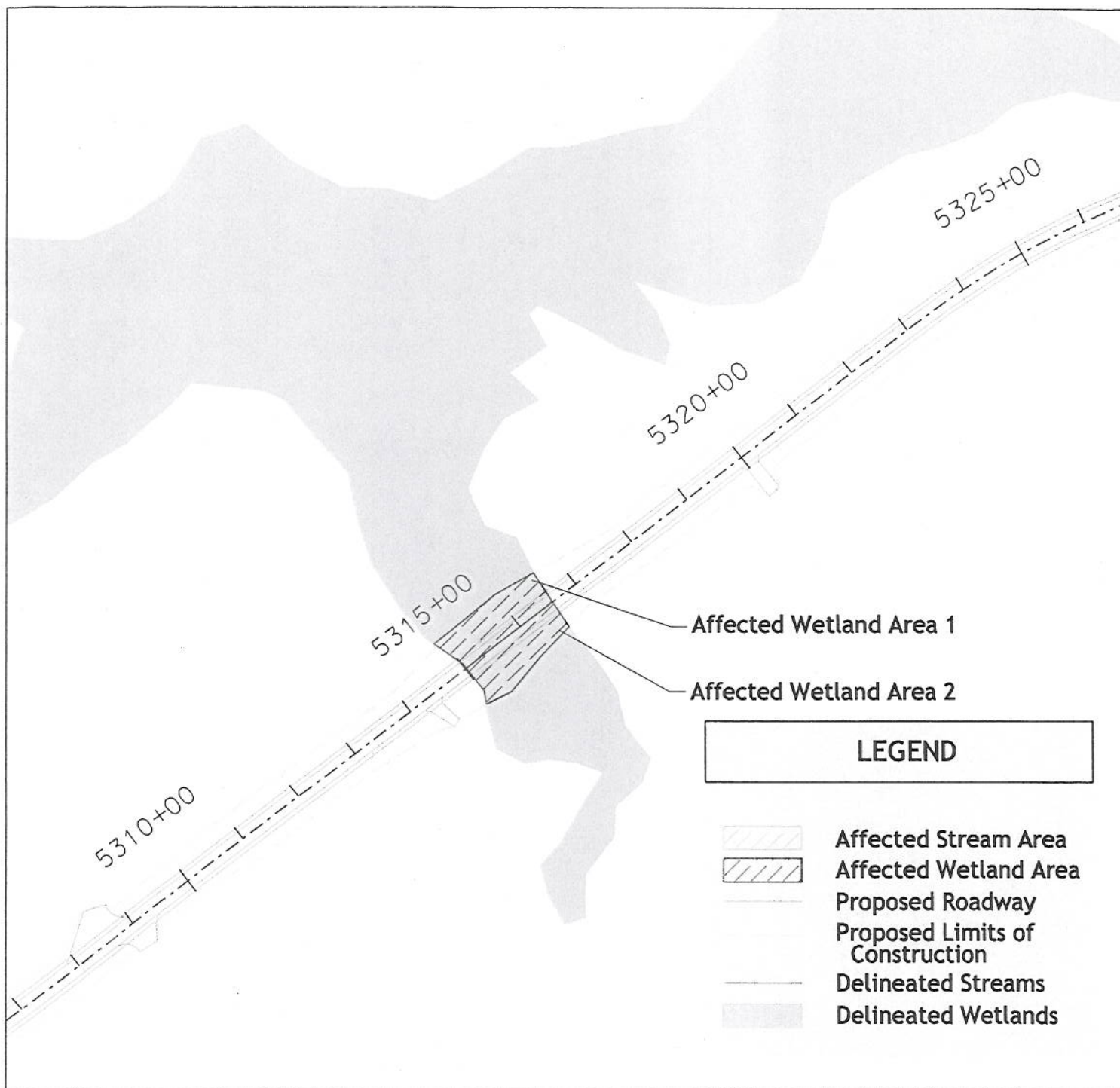
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**Figure x.x
Affected Wetland Areas 1 & 2**

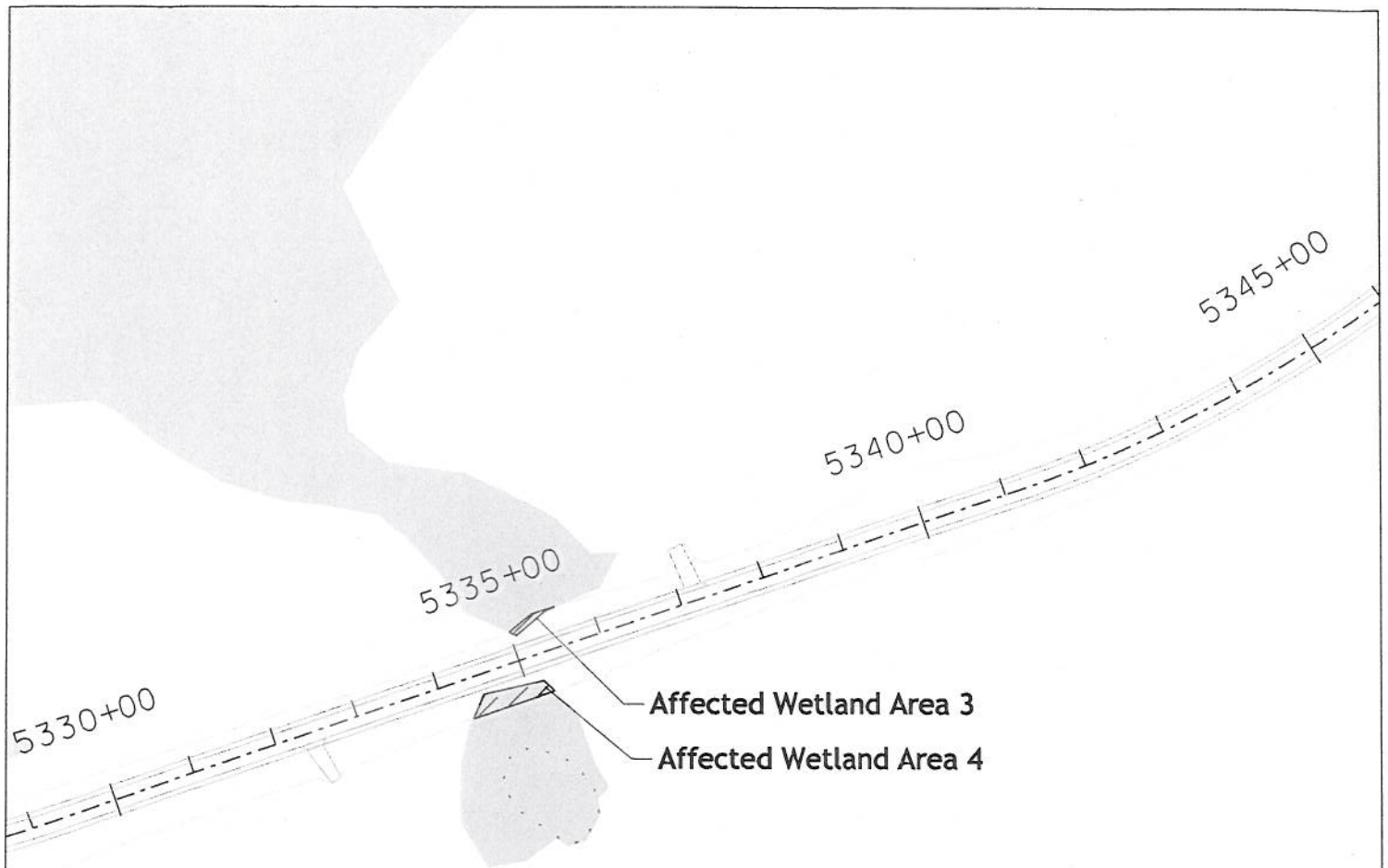
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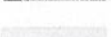


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CONTRACT NO.
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LEGEND

-  Affected Stream Area
-  Affected Wetland Area
-  Proposed Roadway
-  Proposed Limits of Construction
-  Delineated Streams
-  Delineated Wetlands

**Northern Training Areas
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**Figure x.x
Affected Wetland Areas 3 & 4**

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United States Army at Fort Benning**

0 200' 400'

SCALE:1"=200'

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5610+00

5605+00

5600+00

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Affected Wetland Area 5

LEGEND



Affected Stream Area
Affected Wetland Area
Proposed Roadway
Proposed Limits of Construction
Delineated Streams
Delineated Wetlands

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Jurisdictional Impact Assessment
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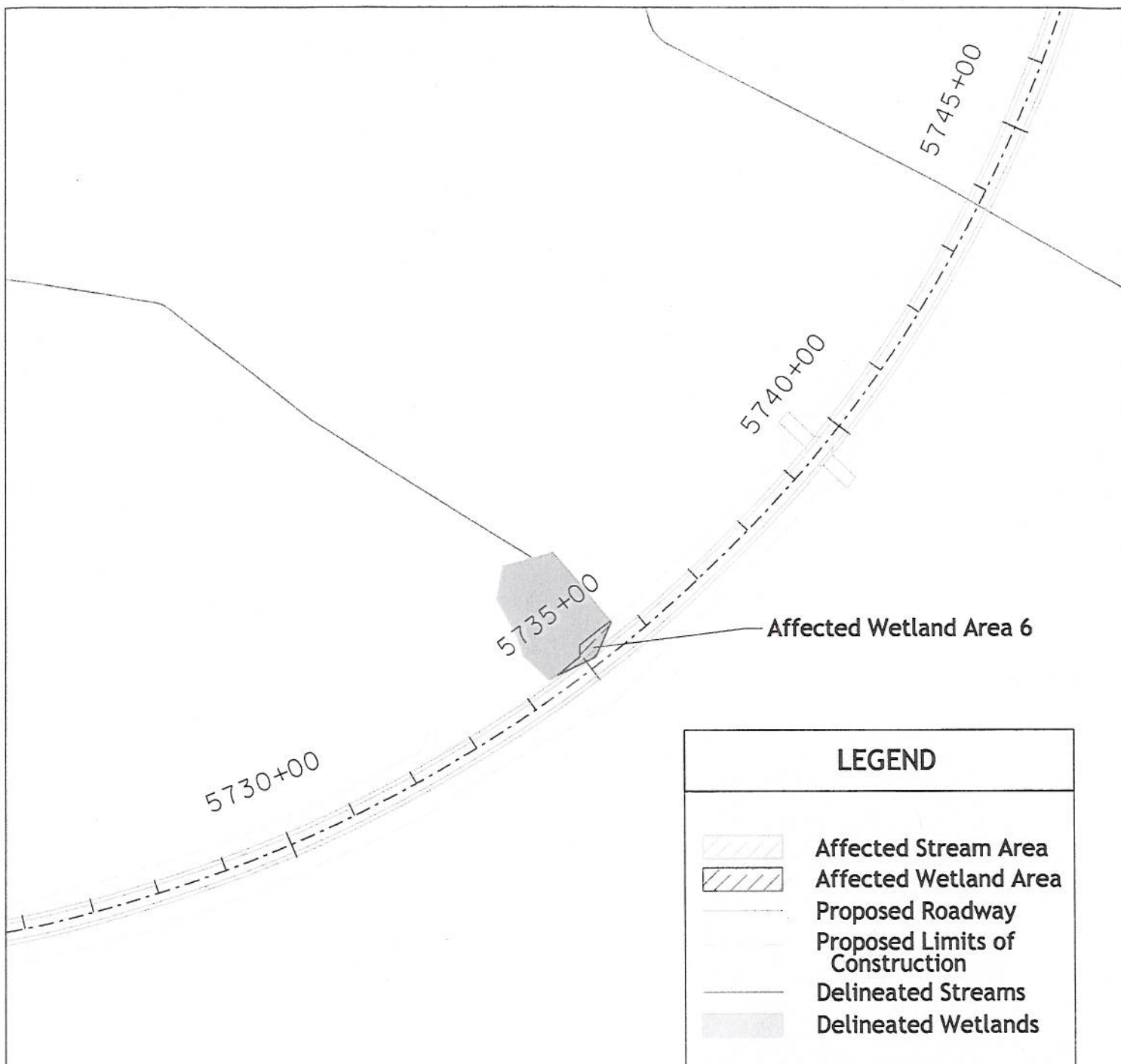


Figure x.x
Affected Wetland Area 5

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United States Army at Fort Benning

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SCALE: 1"=200'

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**Figure x.x
Affected Wetland Area 6**

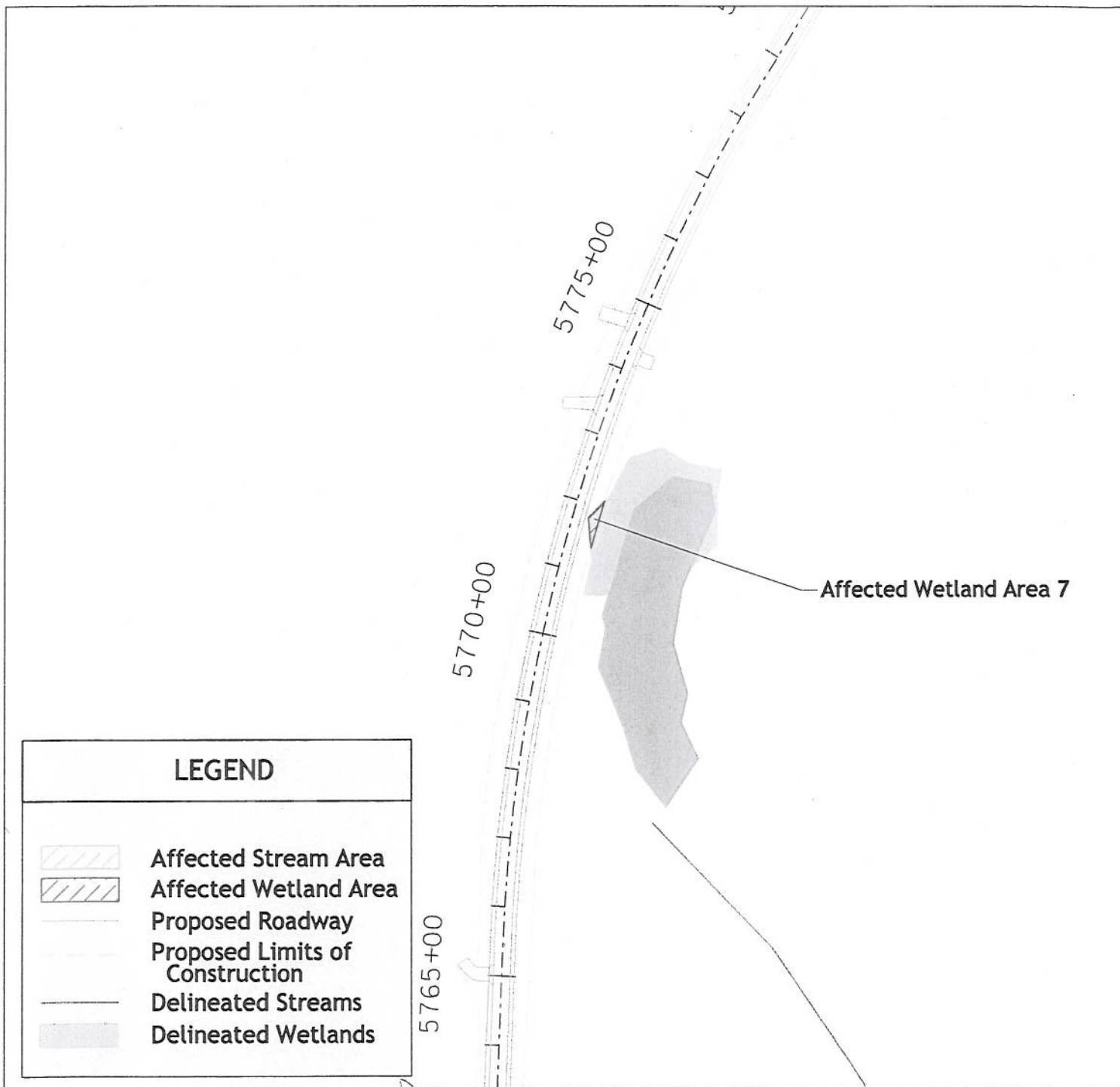
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**Figure x.x
Affected Wetland Area 7**

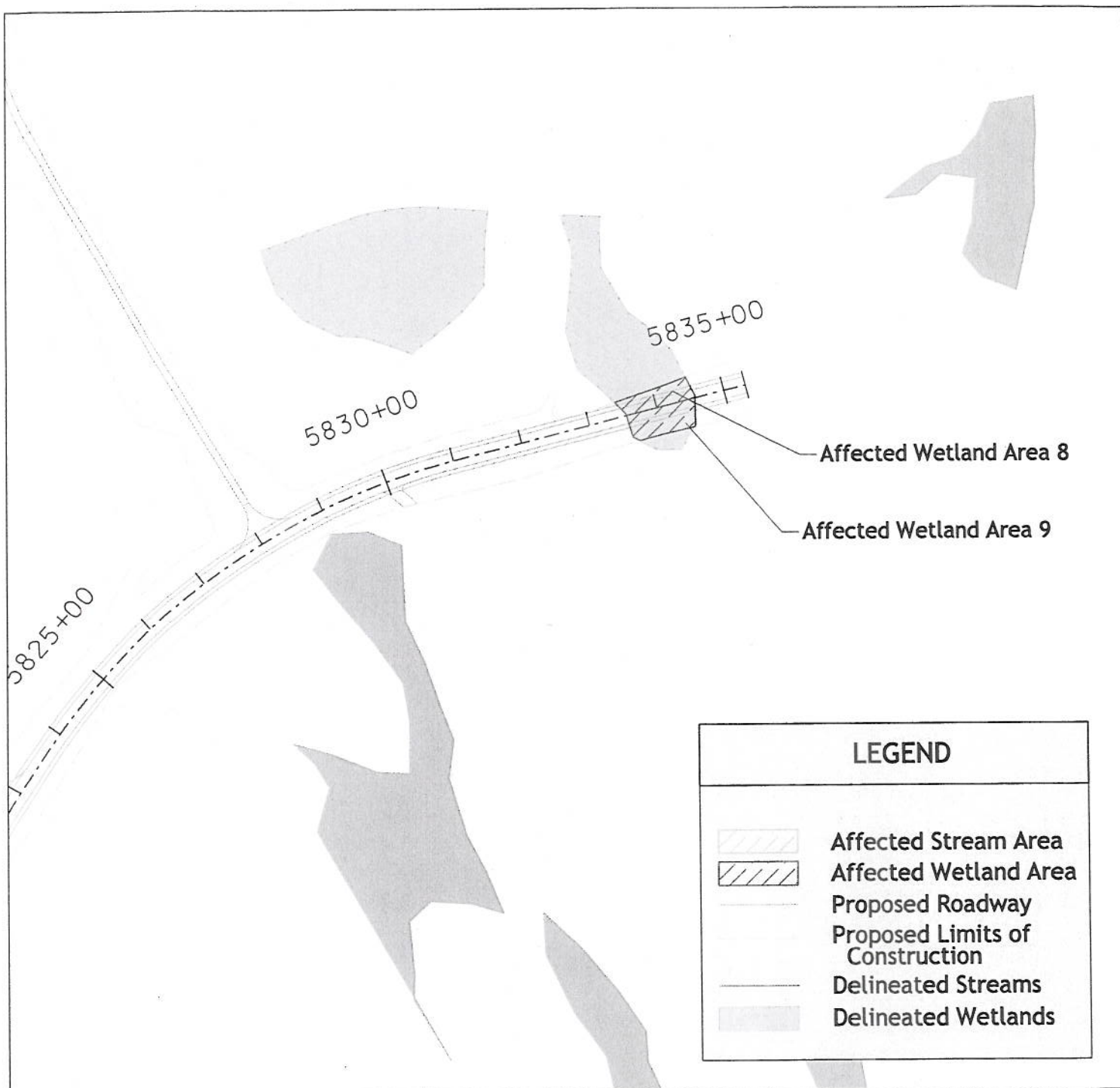
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**Figure x.x
Affected Wetland Areas 8 & 9**

**Prepared For:
United States Army at Fort Benning**

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SCALE: 1"=200'

CONTRACT NO.
W912HN-08-R-0021

Number	Location STA - STA	Wetand Type	Wetland Impact SF	
1	5314+87 - 5316+60 LT	Riparian	9301	0.21
2	5314+93 - 5316+58 RT	Riparian	8642	0.20
3	5335+00 - 5335+64 LT	Riparian	338	0.01
4	5334+10 - 5335+28 RT	Riparian	1752	0.04
5	5559+83 - 5603+37 LT	Riparian	4778	0.11
6	5734+55 - 5735+64 LT	Riparian	1321	0.03
7	5771+37 - 5772+09 LT	Riparian	552	0.01
8	5833+34 - 5834+59 LT	Riparian	2913	0.07
9	5833+57 - 5834+59 RT	Riparian	3794	0.09
			33391	0.77 acres

Location STA - STA	Wetland Type	Wetland Impact SF	
3043+68 - 3045+66 LT & RT	Marsh	9740	
3098+82 - 3100+10 LT & RT	Riparian/Marsh	10804	
3098+98 - 3103+91 LT & RT	Marsh	44196	
3101+92 - 3103+47 LT & RT	Riparian/Marsh	12741	
3115+49 - 3117+33 LT & RT	Riparian	3289	
3149+06 - 3150+97 LT & RT	Riparian	18602	
3174+28 - 3177+31 LT & RT	Riparian	36736	
3189+88 - 3190+42 LT & RT	Riparian	2627	
3198+53 - 3201+39 LT & RT	Riparian	9944	
3220+32 - 3221+73 LT & RT	Marsh	3244	
3220+94 - 3222+23 LT & RT	Riparian/Marsh	4001	
3249+27 - 3254+82 LT & RT	Marsh	30556	
		186480	4.28 acres

Location STA - STA	Wetland Type	Wetland Impact SF		
1005+99 - 1009+05 LT & RT	Marsh	18399		
1048+66 - 1050+46 LT & RT	Marsh	7019		
1086+52 - 1093+18 LT & RT	Marsh	27310		
1091+87 - 1092+26 LT & RT	Riparian/Marsh	833		
1096+10 - 1097+81 LT & RT	Riparian	6647		
1097+57 - 1099+10 LT & RT	Marsh	7606		
1109+53 - 1109+93 LT & RT	Riparian	872		
		68686	1.58	acres